

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 689. A bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Kenneth John Gonzales, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 703. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the eligibility of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region for designation for participation in the visa waiver program for certain visitors to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 704. A bill to designate the Rachel Carson Nature Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 705. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure that memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 706. A bill to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 707. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 708. A bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in secondary school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle grades models for struggling

students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 709. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 710. A bill to provide exemptions from municipal advisor registration requirements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 711. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 118 South Mill Street, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, as the Edward J. Devitt United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 712. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferrable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 713. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 714. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 715. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. 716. A bill to modify the requirements under the STOCK Act regarding online access to certain financial disclosure statements and related forms; considered and passed.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 717. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 718. A bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 719. A bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. Res. 96. A resolution recognizing the celebration of National Student Employment Week at the University of Minnesota Duluth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 54

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 54, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 217

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to collect information from coeducational elementary schools and secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 264

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to expand access to community mental health centers and improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans.

S. 307

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 307, a bill to reduce the Federal budget deficit by closing big oil tax loopholes, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply payroll taxes to remuneration and earnings from self-employment up to the contribution and benefit base and to remuneration in excess of \$250,000.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to require a study and report by the Small Business Administration regarding the costs to small business concerns of Federal regulations.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to require a study and report by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the costs of Federal regulations.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from West

Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to create the National Endowment for the Oceans to promote the protection and conservation of United States ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and for other purposes.

S. 675

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to prohibit contracting with the enemy.

S. 679

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 679, a bill to promote local and regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to rescind amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense for the Medium Extended Air Defense System, and for other purposes.

S. 687

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 687, a bill to prohibit the closing of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes.

S. 695

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 695, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly assistance allowance to disabled veterans training or competing for the Paralympic Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 695, *supra*.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 703. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for

the eligibility of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region for designation for participation in the visa waiver program for certain visitors to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce S. 703 with Senator HATCH to fix a technical problem that prevents Hong Kong from joining the Visa Waiver Program. Under current law, only "countries" are eligible for the program, and Hong Kong is not a sovereign country, so a special provision needs to be added to the law to make Hong Kong eligible.

On July 1, 1997, after over 150 years of British rule, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region of China, retaining its own currency, free market economy, political system, civil liberties, and immigration policies. This autonomy was recognized by the United States and affirmed by Congress in passing the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act.

Today we have a robust bilateral relationship with Hong Kong, a global financial and trading hub, which was our 10th largest export market last year and whose trade ties are significant for many States. The State Department considers Hong Kong an important law enforcement partner in combating money laundering and eliminating funding for terrorist networks.

Despite our visa policies treating it separate from Mainland China, because it is not a "country," Hong Kong is unable to be considered for the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program is an essential tool for promoting travel and tourism to America while protecting national security by allowing precleared business and leisure travelers from 37 countries to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without obtaining a nonimmigrant visitor visa.

Hong Kong has secured visa waivers for its passport holders from over 140 countries and territories, including allies such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and all member states of the European Union. Hong Kong has already extended visa waivers to American citizens. Our laws shouldn't be a barrier to do the same in the future.

As our largest industry, tourism is important to Hawaii, especially from Asia. Our largest source of foreign tourists comes from Japan, a visa waiver country since 1988. In 2011, domestic and international visitors to Hawaii spent \$16.9 billion which supported 160,800 jobs in the islands according to the U.S. Travel Association.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bipartisan, commonsense legislation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 706. A bill to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools